

WTHR

Morgan County also looking for help

Martinsville - Governor Daniels told Hoosiers affected by this weekend's flooding what they can expect from state and federal government as they rebuild their lives.

Frustration continued in Martinsville Tuesday, where officials say the federal assistance is on its way, but those affected by floodwaters say it's not coming fast enough.

After inspecting the rising waters, the governor says that federal money is coming to rebuild roads and bridges.

"You have to tally the damage to qualify. We are moving on that. Whatever the record is for prompt filing in an event this size, we'll try to break it," he said.

FEMA's help comes in the form of loans, not grants, and chances are, if you make more than \$19,000 a year, you won't qualify for assistance.

Many of the damaged homes are not in a flood plain, but the weekend's flooding was the second time some of them filled with water. FEMA denied one resident's request for help in the last flood.

Sixty-one people are staying in shelters in Martinsville. Governor Daniels says he hopes to have command centers set up for the hardest hit areas, but doesn't know when those centers will be set up.

Columbus residents realizing magnitude of damage

Columbus - Residents who've lost everything in flooding are realizing insurance will cover nothing.

The first FEMA teams arrived in town Tuesday, with more expected Wednesday along with other state agencies. Meanwhile, the clean-up continues at Columbus Regional Hospital, which is still closed due to the floods.

Johnson Co. government agencies flooded

Johnson County - The overnight rain is adding to problems in flooded areas, including the Johnson County seat.

Even as they're cleaning up the mess, health officials are still having to address all the needs in the community.

"We're just getting the bare minimum and leaving and working out of our cars basically and a temporary office," said Jennifer Warner, Johnson County Health Department.

Officials say it could take up to five weeks to restore the annex and this building much longer, if at all.

FEMA representatives will be in Johnson and Bartholomew Counties this week to assess the damage. There is no dollar estimate and it could be weeks before the exact monetary toll is known. A study by The Bureau of Business Research at Ball State University estimates \$126 million in damage across central Indiana.

Columbus police guard against post-flood thefts

Bartholomew County - As floodwaters recede in Columbus, a new problem is surfacing. Some flood victims who are washed out are now getting ripped off.

To protect the property of flood victims from looters, Columbus police and other agencies joined forces to patrol the town 24/7.

"They're in their homes now, they're trying to clean up. They're finding that insurance does not cover damages. They have no flood insurance, so they're in a pickle, so hopefully with FEMA who should be in today or tomorrow, we will try to expedite things a little bit," said Mayor Fred Armstrong, Columbus.

There are tax deductions available to them, Reimbursement from FEMA," said Jim Clouse, Columbus Community Development.

The mayor's office of community development rounded the neighborhoods and businesses to document the damage for FEMA. At the public meeting, the city will encourage flood victims to do the same.

"A lot of these people are just so devastated because of the loss. They're just trying to get their stuff out, dry out their homes, and save what they can. That's the furthest thing from their minds that when they fill out their taxes next April, they can take this off," said Clouse.

Elnora levee holds; Edwardsport sandbagging continues

Knox County - The flooding is moving south, and Hoosiers there are bracing for a fight. About 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis, the White River is cresting in places like Elnora in Daviess County.

Some 200 Indiana National Guard members and 140 Marines from North Carolina helped local emergency agencies sandbag a levee there. The maze of sandbags and concrete are all that hold back the White River from swallowing the rural southern Indiana community.

Gov. Mitch Daniels met with officials in Daviess and Knox Counties and visited National Guard troops tasked with sandbagging as they tried to save a Duke Energy power plant. The soldiers are trying to keep the building dry. If they are unsuccessful, much of Knox County could lose power.

Since the weekend, more than 1,000 National Guard soldiers having been pitching in and helping out.

Homeland Security update - Tuesday

During the evening of June 6th and into the morning of June 7th, 2008 multiple lines of strong thunderstorms moved through the State of Indiana. Some areas in central Indiana received up to 10 inches rain. This, coupled with already saturated ground, resulted in dangerous flash flood conditions. To coordinate statewide response operations, the State Emergency Operations Center activated at a Level 2 with full State Emergency Support Function activation.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Elnora - Levee is holding at this time

Worthington - Town only accessible from the north.

Hymera - Will be out of water for up to 7 days.

Seymour - water has crested and is beginning to fall

Hydrology report for Gibson County (Hazelton area) levee at that location is currently 18.8 feet and is projected to be 28 feet, which will be considered a major flood. Still rising, and projected to crest Friday morning. In response to this attention will shift to the Hazelton area.

Assessments and monitoring of the levees and the flood waters will determine if further movement is needed to observe location south on the West Fork of the White River.

- Edwardsport - holding steady, cresting at 29.45 ft (flood stage is 15 feet) as of 0800
- Shelbyville - water level at 10.8 ft (flood stage is 11ft). Low level flooding in Sunset Park. Sandbagging around Flat Rock Post Office.

STATE AGENCIES ACTIVE IN RESPONSE OPERATIONS

- Department of Natural Resources:
- Mark Stroud, 44, of Coatesville, has been identified as the drowning victim recovered Monday morning by Indiana conservation officers in Mill Creek in Morgan County.
- DNR engineers have inspected two dams in Brown County and one in Owen County. Division of Fish & Wildlife personnel were delivering pumps to Owen, Putnam and Clay counties for lake drainage relief.
- DNR conservation officers were working in Greene, Knox, Daviess, Lawrence, Morgan and Pike counties on Monday. Conservation officers from District 7 in southwest Indiana were assessing water levels and levees in Daviess, Knox and Pike counties.

- Conservation officers from District 5 delivered baby formula and medication to separate homes in the Worthington area in Greene County. They also helped evacuate several individuals near Worthington.
- Indiana State Police:
- Sullivan County:

SR 154 going to Illinois still closed.

- Jackson County

SR 235 in and around Medora still closed

SR 258 from Cortland to Seymour still closed

- Bartholomew County

SR 11 from Garden City to Little Acres closed

SR 9 3 ½ miles north of intersection of SR 9 and SR 46 closed

- Indiana Department of Transportation

Updated information will be forthcoming

- State Department of Health

The Indiana State Department of Health continues to work with local health departments to ensure sufficient supply of tetanus vaccine is available for individuals in flooded areas who need a tetanus shot.

- Indiana Department of Environmental Management

1. Drinking water utilities: IDEM is receiving information that several local utilities have issued boil water orders. Communities in affected areas should contact their local Emergency Management Agency to request water, as appropriate.

2. Wastewater treatment plants and sewers; Outages and disruptions are expected due to flooding, and IDEM is receiving reports of problems in impacted areas. IDEM advises residents that flood water, in general, is considered to be contaminated, and residents should avoid contact, avoid ingestion, and wash hands thoroughly after coming in contact with flood water.

3. Spill incidents: IDEM on-scene coordinators are responding to spill incidents including (1) release in Nashville, (1) release in Terre Haute, and numerous tank and service station spills in the Martinsville

area. Numerous incidents have been reported, including a report from Franklin about a sheen around its flooded courthouse.

4. Livestock operations: IDEM, with the assistance of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, is in the process of assessing conditions at manure lagoons around the state.

5.

- Agriculture - IBOAH and ISDA

In an effort to provide assistance for Hoosier farmers, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture is working with USDA officials to get additional information to farmers within the next 24 hours. If farmers have livestock losses (deaths), they should go to the Indiana Board of Animal Health website at www.in.gov/boah or call 317-227-0300 for proper methods to dispose of dead livestock. If farmers have manure, pesticides or other farm chemicals that have spilled due to flooding, they should contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Spill Hotline at 317-233-7745 or 1-888-233-7745.

- Indiana National Guard

Currently engaged in sandbagging operations at the Duke Energy Plant in Evansport.

The Adjutant General, R. Martin Umbarger is flying with the Governor to perform aerial reconnaissance.

Sandbagging operations underway at a levee in Greene County.

The Indiana National Guard is continuing to make and palletize sandbags for transportation to southwestern Indiana at the guidance and direction of the Department of Homeland Security and the county emergency management director.

Local Disaster Declaration - Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Owen, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, and Wayne.

Health, Safety & Security

- 4 fatalities: 2 in Morgan and 2 in Bartholomew counties.

Shelter Operations:

Total Shelter Population: 273 (Down from 1,230)

Bartholomew County - Northside Middle School, 1400 27th St, Columbus, IN 47201

Owen County - Spencer Elementary, 151 E Hillside Ave, Spencer, IN 47460

Vigo County - North High School, 3434 Maple Ave, Terre Haute, IN 47804

Clay County - Eastside Elementary, 936 East National Ave., Brazil, IN 47834

Vermillion County - Hillcrest Community Center, 503 N. 8th St., Clinton, Indiana 47842

Greene County - Lyons Community Center, 600 W. Broad St, Lyons Indiana 47443

Johnson County - Community Church of Greenwood, 1477 W Main St, Greenwood, IN

Morgan County - Martinsville High School, 1360 E Gray St, Martinsville, IN 46151

Brown County - Brown County YMCA, 105 Willow Street, Nashville, Indiana 47448

Shelby County - Salvation Army Shelter, 136 E. Washington, Shelbyville, IN

Critical Infrastructure and Facilities

Status of Utilities:

Gas

Outages reported in Johnson, Morgan, Jackson, Decatur, Bartholomew, Vigo and Owen

County. Approximately 3,500 customers affected. Water

Boil Orders-

Shelby and Johnson County residents that are serviced by IN American Water do not need to boil water

Town of Jasonville

Cordry/Sweetwater Lake Communities-Johnson County

Although service has been restored to nearly all 1500 customers, water users are still advised to boil water for three minutes prior to consumption, pending lab analysis. IW Customers south of SR 37 and Waverly Road, and north of SR 252/Old Morgantown Road are included in this precautionary boil alert.

Water System Failures

Waverly (Morgan)

Town of Jasonville (Greene) - Water main break, boil order

Cordry / Sweetwater Lake (Johnson) - Boil order

Gosport (Owen)

Freedom (Owen)

Hymera (Sullivan County)

Vigo County - Widespread well contamination

Sewer

Wastewater treatment plant at Switz City (Greene County) shut down due to flooding.

Power

15,600 customers without power

Gibson Power Plant (Gibson County) prepared for flooding on Wabash. Levee system

and pumping equipment in place. Does not anticipate service interruptions due to

flooding.

Road Closures

Flood Control

Reported Levee Breaches

Lyons-Marco Levee (Greene County)

Summary of State Agency Response Operations

Total Number of State Personnel Deployed

Indiana Public Safety Commission - 1

Indiana Department of Environmental Management - 4

Indiana Department of Transportation - 110

Indiana Department of Administration - 2

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission - 1

Indiana State Police - 25

Department of Natural Resources - 40

Indiana National Guard - 1154+

Board of Animal Health - 2

Indiana State Department of Health - 10

Indiana Department of Homeland Security - 38

Indiana Department of Corrections - 62

WISHTV

Columbus flood victims upset over unanswered questions

It was standing room only Tuesday night at North Side Middle School. Hundreds of people showed up with hundreds of questions. There were questions that city leaders and FEMA representatives didn't have many answers to.

"I wish I could provide more answers. I'm really here more to listen," FEMA representative Diego Avarado.

Columbus Mayor Fred Armstrong told the crowd that he sent a letter to the Governor, "I've asked him to contact the President and ask him for help."

President Bush has already declared Bartholomew County a disaster area. While counties have been declared a disaster, the process is not designed to provide direct Federal assistance to individuals. FEMA personnel are still in the process of assessing damage and loss at the Governor's request. The Governor makes an application to the Federal Government for assistance that if granted is handled through the State, not directly with FEMA. Individuals do not get direct assistance from FEMA.

Residents north of Maysville evacuated after levee overtops

ELNORA, Ind. (AP) - Officials have ordered residents in Daviess County north of Maysville to evacuate after floodwaters overtopped a levee Tuesday night.

They're being evacuated to a school in Washington, the Daviess County seat.

A Daviess County sheriff's dispatcher estimates as many as 300 people in the Maysville area could be affected.

Maysville is about 18 miles from Elnora, where most residents already have evacuated. Marines and Indiana National Guard soldiers put up sandbags and concrete barriers there to hold back the river.

Now, the state is shifting its attention to preventive measures such as sandbagging downstream along the White and Wabash rivers, at towns such as Hazleton, Petersburg and New Harmony.

Daniels says southwestern part of state suffered agriculture damage

ELNORA, Ind. (WISH) - Governor Mitch Daniels continued touring the storm-ravaged state on Tuesday.

Among his stops was North Knox High School. Knox County is one of the many that suffered agricultural damage.

Governor Daniels said on Tuesday during a briefing that those who weren't hit hard by the floods are heading toward one of their best years in history.

"But in the places that have really been inundated here there's going to be some folks we believe that will not get replanted and others who will, um, not enjoy the sorts of yields and uh, income they otherwise would have," said Gov. Daniels.

But, Daniels has asked federal agriculture officials to declare 44 Indiana counties major disaster areas. Farmers in those counties would qualify for emergency loans.

Elnora watches and waits as flood crest appears to pass

ELNORA, Ind. (AP) - Residents of the southern Indiana town of Elnora are watching and waiting for the White River to recede.

The worst flooding in modern Indiana history pushed past cornfields to reach the rural community about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis, and Marines and Indiana National Guard soldiers put up sandbags and concrete barriers to hold back the river. Most Elnora residents have been evacuated.

Paul Goss is director of Daviess County Emergency Management. He thinks the crest of the White River may have passed Elnora Tuesday afternoon after the high water breached a levee downriver at Plainville.

State officials said they still can't put a dollar estimate on the losses from homes and businesses destroyed and damaged by the floods that have claimed three lives. About 300 people are still in shelters, down from more than 1,200 on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says two Indiana reservoirs -- at Raccoon Lake, about 25 miles northeast of Terre Haute, and Monroe Lake near Bloomington -- are getting close to their capacities.

Governor asks 44 counties declared farm disaster areas

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Governor Mitch Daniels has asked federal agriculture officials to declare 44 Indiana counties major disaster areas because of storm damage and flooding this month.

The designation would qualify farmers in those counties for emergency loans.

President Bush already has declared 29 of the counties federal disaster areas. And the other 15 counties covered in Daniels' request are Adams, Benton, Carroll, Elkhart, Fulton, Hancock, Huntington, LaGrange, Marion, Miami, Newton, Tippecanoe, Wabash, Warrick and White counties.

WRTV

Sandbagging Efforts Save Indiana Town

ELNORA, Ind. -- Berms of white sandbags and concrete barriers held back the White River from swallowing a town of about 750 people Tuesday, leaving residents little choice but to wait and watch, hoping a historic deluge would soon recede.

The worst flooding in modern Indiana history pushed past cornfields to reach the Daviess County town of Elnora, about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis, where Marines and Indiana National Guard soldiers a day earlier built the berms to hold back the river.

State officials said they could not yet place a dollar estimate on the losses from homes and businesses destroyed and damaged by the floods that have claimed three lives across Indiana. Up to 11 inches of rain Saturday started the worst flooding in modern history.

About 300 people remained in shelters Tuesday, down from more than 1,200 on Sunday, said Executive Director Joe Wainscott of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. He could not estimate the total number of people forced to abandon their homes.

Gov. Mitch Daniels toured parts of waterlogged southwestern Indiana -- including Elnora -- by air Tuesday.

"We have a very touch-and-go situation there, but everything that can be done has been done," he said.

Eighteen miles to the southwest, officials ordered residents to evacuate north of Maysville after floodwaters overtopped a levee Monday night. Residents were being evacuated to a school in Washington. A Daviess County sheriff's dispatcher estimated as many as 300 people could be affected.

Paul Goss, director of Daviess County Emergency Management, speculated the crest of the White River had passed Elnora during the afternoon after the high water breached a levee down river at Plainville, relieving pressure upstream.

The state was shifting its attention to preventive measures such as sandbagging downstream along the White and Wabash rivers, at towns such as Hazleton, Petersburg and New Harmony. Wainscott said river waters there were expected to crest over the weekend.

Morlock said additional rain from storms that moved through the state Monday was expected to have little if any impact on the current flooding.

Daniels wrote U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Shafer to request a farm disaster declaration -- making farmers eligible for emergency loans -- in 44 Indiana counties because of damage to crops or livestock losses due to flooding and storms since May 30.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said two Indiana reservoirs neared their capacities and their spillways were releasing as much water as possible without causing further flooding. They were Cecil M. Hardin Lake, also called Raccoon Lake, about 25 miles northeast of Terre Haute, and Monroe Lake near Bloomington.

Daniels plans on Wednesday to tour more areas hit hard by recent storms. Daniels and State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson will assess tornado damage in Moscow, along with flood damage in Hope, Spencer and Franklin.

Most Elnora residents left after voluntary evacuation orders came late Monday. Only 44 people in 19 homes stayed, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which sent officers from house to house after midnight to check for the disabled and homebound. Some of those residents returned at first light Tuesday to help with sandbagging.

Emotions Raw At City's Flood Meeting

COLUMBUS, Ind. -- Emotions were raw and debate got heated Tuesday night at a meeting organized for flood victims in Columbus.

Mayor Fred Armstrong organized the informational meeting and told residents that he had asked Gov. Mitch Daniels on behalf of the residents to ask President George W. Bush for help.

"It's time for the federal government to help people, or continue to help people in the United States and, specifically for me, Columbus, Indiana," Armstrong said.

A FEMA representative was at the meeting, telling victims that relief takes time. FEMA inspectors have been surveying damage in the devastated areas.

"Show them your damage when they come around ... because that's how a disaster declaration will progress," said Diego Alvarado, of FEMA.

Louisville TV

WAVE

Receding flood waters bring health concerns

SEYMOUR, Ind. (WAVE) - As the floodwaters go down, homeowners in Seymour are trying to get things back to normal. Most are back in their homes trying to access the damage the floodwaters have left behind. As they do that, WAVE 3's Lindsay English reports that health officials are urging them to make one thing a priority -- checking the condition of their drinking water.

We're requesting our patients and residents here not use water until wells have been treated," said Dr. Kenneth Bobb, Jackson County Health Officer.

Bobb says they safest bet is for Jackson County residents is to bring the Health Department a sample of their water.

"Those wells that are at risk are those wells that have been in the proximity of the septic systems and or wells that have been submerged in standing water," Bobb says.

Buying water is one option. Boiling water is another. But health officials are urging Jackson County residents to come by the Health Department to get instructions how to obtain the samples and treat the water. That will take about 10 days after which another sample will be taken and tested to make sure the water is safe. These are steps that health officials say will help keep people from becoming sick.

Elnora watches and waits as flood crest appears to pass

ELNORA, Ind. (AP) - Residents of the southern Indiana town of Elnora are watching and waiting for the White River to recede.

Governor Mitch Daniels toured the flooded areas today by air - including Elnora - and called it a "very touch & go situation." But he said everything that can be done has been done.

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Now, the state is shifting its attention to preventive measures such as sandbagging downstream along the White and Wabash rivers, at towns such as Hazleton, Petersburg and New Harmony.

State officials say they still can't put a dollar estimate on the losses from homes and businesses destroyed and damaged by the floods that have claimed three lives. About 300 people are still in shelters, down from more than 1,200 on Sunday.

WDRB

Indiana flooding spreads as crest moves downstream

CAPEHART, Ind. (AP) - A levee near the town of Capehart failed early today, causing flash flooding and prompting Daviess County authorities to urge residents to evacuate voluntarily.

Authorities also ordered as many as 300 residents north of nearby Maysville to evacuate late yesterday after floodwaters topped a levee. Some evacuees went to a school in Washington.

State officials said they could not yet place a dollar estimate on the losses from homes and businesses destroyed and damaged by the floods that have claimed three lives across Indiana. Up to 10 inches of rain Saturday started the worst flooding in modern history.

Executive Director Joe Wainscott of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security estimated yesterday that 300 people still were housed in emergency shelters.

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WHAS

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A few miles down river, a levee near the town of Capehart failed early Wednesday, causing flash flooding and prompting Washington County authorities to urge residents to evacuate voluntarily.

"We've got about a 40-yard swath of levee that's gone," said state Rep. Dave Crooks of Washington, acting as spokesman for the county's Emergency Management Agency. "We've got rapidly rising water in that whole bottom area. If you've got a home there, it's pretty serious."

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Earlier Tuesday, Executive Director Joe Wainscott of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security estimated 300 people were housed in emergency shelters, down from more than 1,200 on Sunday. He could not estimate the total number of people forced to abandon their homes.

Gov. Mitch Daniels toured parts of waterlogged southwestern Indiana — including Elnora — by air Tuesday.

"We have a very touch-and-go situation there, but everything that can be done has been done," he said.

Most Elnora residents left after voluntary evacuation orders came late Monday. Only 44 people in 19 homes stayed, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which sent officers from house to house after midnight to check for the disabled and homebound. Some of those residents returned at first light Tuesday to help with sandbagging.

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The state was shifting its attention to preventive measures such as sandbagging downstream along the White and Wabash rivers, at towns such as Hazleton, Petersburg and New Harmony. Wainscott said rivers there were expected to crest over the weekend.

Morlock said additional rain from storms that moved through the state Monday was expected to have little if any impact on the current flooding.

Daniels wrote U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Shafer to request a farm disaster declaration — making farmers eligible for emergency loans — in 44 Indiana counties because of damage to crops or livestock losses due to flooding and storms since May 30.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said two Indiana reservoirs neared their capacities and their spillways were releasing as much water as possible without causing further flooding. They were Cecil M. Hardin Lake, also called Raccoon Lake, about 25 miles northeast of Terre Haute, and Monroe Lake near Bloomington.

Indiana flooding called the worst in a century

President Bush has declared the state a disaster area, ordering FEMA to help with needed supplies.

The approval granted is for immediate emergency protective measures such as water, food, power generators, medical supplies, cots, housing assistance. The approval means that in areas where local and state resources have been exhausted, FEMA will step in with needed supplies.

Currently, this federal approval does not include individual and public assistance and SBA loans. Once the state is able to complete damage assessment, further individual and public assistance is expected to be made available.

WIBC

Governor Tours Flood-Damaged Areas

Governor Mitch Daniels made stops in Worthington, Edwardsport, Vincennes and Hazelton and flew over Elnora, Indiana twice on Tuesday. He says preventative measures downstream from the flooding are going well.

The National Guard is sandbagging around the Edwardsport Duke Energy generating plant. The plant has shut down because of water in the basement but the governor says no power outages are expected.

Daniels says a lot of farm land is underwater at a time when Indiana farmers were on pace for a record growing season. No estimate of the damage to agricultural land is available yet.

The Governor says unlike the floods in 2005, the Ohio River is not at flood stage. Previously that prevented the water from flowing further south.

Once financial assistance for individuals becomes available, Governor Daniels says he intends to set up information centers in each hard-hit area. He says the goal is to have a one-stop center for flood victims to apply for various state and federal grants.

Southwestern Indiana Next to Experience Flooding

Floodwaters are moving south in the Hoosier state. National Guard soldiers and Marines held back a levee in Elnora with half a million sandbags and concrete barriers.

But residents are being asked to evacuate in Elnora and downstream in Maysville. The White River at Edwardsport in Knox County has not yet crested and volunteers are trying the best they can to hold back the floodwaters.

The state is now focusing on holding back the White and Wabash Rivers in Petersburg and Hazelton in Gibson County and New Harmony in Posey County.

FEMA Assessing Damages

Federal financial assistance for individual homeowners without flood insurance will have to wait until FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, completes its damage assessment around the state.

Mike Smith with FEMA says the next step is for the Governor to request a disaster declaration for

homeowners. That gets the ball rolling so homeowners in counties declared disaster areas can apply for federal assistance through FEMA.

Smith says FEMA can't make homeowners whole again, but the agency does provide grants for repair or replacement of primary homes, family goods and rental assistance. Depending on the circumstances, Smith says the maximum amount of a FEMA grant is \$28,800.

Governor Mitch Daniels intends to set up information centers in each hard-hit area. He says the goal is to have a one-stop center for flood victims to apply for various state and federal grants.

Mike Smith says FEMA will staff the disaster recovery centers along with other federal and state agencies to help answer questions and provide guidance for flood-stricken homeowners seeking financial help.

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Homeland Security Continues to Assess Flood Damage

The Department of Homeland Security continues efforts to assess what damage has been done, and try to save whatever possible.

Spokesman John Erickson says Monday night's rain did delay or pull progress back a bit, but the extent of all of the damage is not yet clear.

The town of Elnora was evacuated as a precaution, and sandbagging continues in several communities including Edwardsport.

Erickson says officials are eager to get to a point where damage assessments can be conducted to begin the process for FEMA assistance. He says there is a concern for the safety of residents working in the floodwater.

The mix of storm water and raw sewage has officials warning residents to contact local health departments to have their wells tested, get tetanus shots for any wounds exposed to floodwaters, and protect themselves from exposure to West Nile virus from developing mosquito populations in standing water.

Hoosiers Begin Recovery From Flooding

Hours after President Bush declared nearly a third of Indiana's counties disaster areas, Gov. Mitch Daniels canceled a trade mission to Japan so he could oversee the state's effort to cope with the worst flooding in modern history.

Daniels also wrote U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Shafer to declare farm disasters in 44 Indiana counties because of damage to crops or livestock losses due to the flooding and tornadoes and other storms since May 30.

Estimates of the financial losses - both overall and to farms - have not been compiled yet, Daniels said.

State officials said they could not yet give a dollar estimate on the damage or the number of homes and businesses destroyed. About 300 people remained in shelters, down from more than 1,200 Sunday night, said Joe Wainscott, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. He had no estimate on the number of people forced to abandon their homes.

The destruction led Bush to order federal aid to supplement state and local funds to 29 counties. Rushing water breached dams and washed out portions of highways, some of which remained closed.

"I think the state may have seen individual instances in the past that were also terribly devastating but I don't know that we've had a string of them in a short number of days quite the like of this. If we have my history isn't good enough to tell you when," Daniels said.

Indianapolis Star

Agencies step up to help Ind. storm victims

9:53 AM -- FSSA steps in

Today, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration announced several ways flood victims may receive assistance from their agency. Welfare and Medicaid assistance, crisis counseling and aging services are all available to clients across the state.

"By utilizing our emergency action plan our team of employees are deployed on an as needed basis," said FSSA Secretary Mitch Roob in a statement. "We realize the effect this disaster has had on Hoosiers and know that our services are an integral part of helping them move forward."

He said food stamps that were destroyed would be replaced. And a new batch of applicants could also be eligible once a Presidential Declaration is approved for individual assistance. [Click here to find your nearest local county office.](#)

Other forms of help include:

Crisis Counseling

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction has established a crisis counseling hotline with trained crisis counselors on staff. Clients in need of this service can call 1-866-679-4631.

Aging & Disabled Services

The Division of Aging is coordinating with the Local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to support aged and disabled clients during this time of disaster. If you or a loved one are in need of Aging services, please contact your local AAA. To find the location nearest you, call toll free 1-800-986-3505.

Medicaid

If Medicaid clients are in need of replacement durable medical equipment and/or medications they may call their durable medical supplier or pharmacy and staff will take the appropriate steps to get these replaced. If you do not know this number, please call EDS member services at 1-800-457-4584.

Child Care

If a client's child care provider has been affected by the disaster, parents may call 1-800-299-1627 to receive help locating a new or temporary provider.

9:13 AM -- Daniels to view more storm damage.

Gov. Mitch Daniels and Indiana State Fire Marshall Jim Greeson will travel to areas of south central Indiana today to continue to assess recent storm damage.

The governor is expected to arrive in Moscow around 10:15 a.m. to see damage, including the site of the historic covered bridge that was destroyed last week by a tornado.

Daniels will also visit flood damaged areas in Hope, Spencer and Franklin.

Rain's toll on crops heavy

After touring flooded areas of Southern Indiana on Tuesday, Gov. Mitch Daniels said he saw "a lot of agricultural damage." Before the deluge, Indiana farmers were en route to one of their best years, he said.

"But in the places that have really been inundated here, there's going to be some folks we believe who will not get replanted and others who will not enjoy the sorts of yields and income they otherwise would have," he said.

Daniels has asked for federal disaster declarations, which, if granted, could make farmers eligible for federal assistance.

To be eligible, farmers must report livestock, crop or equipment losses to their local U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency as soon as possible, said Indiana Agriculture Director Andy Miller.

Floodwaters move south

Despite as many as a half-million sandbags stacked statewide, rising waters on Tuesday began to flood cornfields in southwest Indiana and threaten the area's river towns and hamlets.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, who toured the area Tuesday, said a number of communities, including Elnora, Edwardsport, Petersburg, Hazleton and New Harmony, are susceptible to flooding that already has claimed three lives and caused tens of millions of dollars of damage to Indiana communities.

FEMA inspections could take days

FEMA officials are on the ground in Indiana, but so far they're just looking.

About 30 Federal Emergency Management Agency workers are inspecting the flood damage in 29 Indiana counties, along with Indiana Department of Homeland Security officials and local emergency management representatives.

They expect to carry out the inspections through the next several days, FEMA spokesman Leo Skinner said. FEMA is depending on local emergency management to show it the most damaged areas.

"(We're) considering the number of homes that were destroyed, whether people are out of their homes . . . just kind of getting a total of as many people as we can, as much of the damage as we can see," Skinner said.

Those affected by the flooding cannot apply for individual aid from FEMA, he said. That depends on a report the agency will deliver to state Homeland Security and Gov. Mitch Daniels.

Daniels then will decide whether to request a federal declaration for individual assistance.

If assistance is granted, FEMA will set up a phone line and Web site for those affected by the disaster, Skinner said. Inspectors then would go to individuals' homes and businesses to assess damage.

Grants and loans would be available for homeowners and renters through FEMA's Small Business Administration, which also would provide loans to business owners.

FEMA also could offer aid for other expenses such as medical care, professional tools or moving expenses related to the disaster, according to the agency's Web site. Applicants first must accept any other aid offered to them, however, such as FEMA loans.

The evaluation process moves slower in a flood than in other emergencies, Department of Homeland Security spokesman John Erickson said.

"It takes a little bit more time because you have to wait for the water to recede in some areas, and you have to wait to see the damage until the floodwater is gone," he said.

Though FEMA has allotted money to state and local agencies, the state hasn't tapped into any of those funds, Erickson said.

For now, Hoosiers suffering flood damage should start cleaning up if they can, Skinner said.

"We recommend they start the cleanup process and don't wait for federal assistance at this point," he said. "If they can document any items they've lost or any repairs, we would encourage them to do that."

Louisville Courier Journal

Indiana flooding spreads as crest moves downstream

ELNORA, Ind. (AP) -- Berms of white sandbags and concrete barriers held back the White River from swallowing this rural community, leaving residents little choice but to wait and watch, hoping a historic deluge would soon recede.

The worst flooding in modern Indiana history pushed past cornfields Tuesday to reach the Daviess County town of Elnora, about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis, where Marines and Indiana National Guard soldiers a day earlier built the berms to hold back the river.

Authorities also ordered as many as 300 residents north of nearby Maysville to evacuate late Tuesday after floodwaters topped a levee. Some evacuees went to a school in Washington.

State officials said they could not yet place a dollar estimate on the losses from homes and businesses destroyed and damaged by the floods that have claimed three lives across Indiana. Up to 10 inches of rain Saturday started the worst flooding in modern history.

Earlier Tuesday, Executive Director Joe Wainscott of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security estimated 300 people were housed in emergency shelters, down from more than 1,200 on Sunday. He could not estimate the total number of people forced to abandon their homes.

Gov. Mitch Daniels toured parts of waterlogged southwestern Indiana - including Elnora - by air Tuesday.

"We have a very touch-and-go situation there, but everything that can be done has been done," he said.

Paul Goss, director of Daviess County Emergency Management, speculated the crest of the White River had passed Elnora during the afternoon after high water first breached the levee at Plainville, relieving pressure upstream.

The state was shifting its attention to preventive measures such as sandbagging downstream along the White and Wabash rivers, at towns such as Hazleton, Petersburg and New Harmony. Wainscott said rivers there were expected to crest over the weekend.

Morlock said additional rain from storms that moved through the state Monday was expected to have little if any impact on the current flooding.

Daniels wrote U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Shafer to request a farm disaster declaration - making farmers eligible for emergency loans - in 44 Indiana counties because of damage to crops or livestock losses due to flooding and storms since May 30.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said two Indiana reservoirs neared their capacities and their spillways were releasing as much water as possible without causing further flooding. They were Cecil M. Hardin Lake, also called Raccoon Lake, about 25 miles northeast of Terre Haute, and Monroe Lake near Bloomington.

Evansville Courier & Press

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"We have a very touch-and-go situation there, but everything that can be done has been done," he said.

Most Elnora residents left after voluntary evacuation orders came late Monday. Only 44 people in 19 homes stayed, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which sent officers from house to house after midnight to check for the disabled and homebound. Some of those residents returned at first light Tuesday to help with sandbagging.

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